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GENUINE ACCOUNT

OF OF

ANNE WHALE and SARAH PLEDGE,

Who were tried and condemned at the Assizes held at Horsham in the County of Sussex, &cc.

MONGST the various Kinds of Cruelties that are fo often perpetrated by the human Specie, none are fo common of late as that worst of Crimes, (Murder I) A Guilt that disqualifies the Authors from Heaven, and fits them for the Devil, who was a Murderer from the Beginning. But notwithstanding this is the most horrid and unnatural of all Crimes, yet there are Degrees of Guilt in this Guilt; as for Example, a Child to murder a Parent, a Brother a Sister, a Niece an Uncle, or a Wife a Husband; these are more heinous in the Sight of God than any other Crimes whatsoever, and merit a Punishment adequate to fuch an unnatural and monstrous Deed: however, as abominable and horrid as fuch diabolical Actions are, yet there are too many Instances of such Murders perpetrated in this our Day and Country; I need not mention Particulars, because every Child is acquainted therewith; and these Instruments of Satan, or the Devil's Scholars, don't confine their Genius to the Practice of one Branch of

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their Master's Knowledge; no! they daily discover somewhat new. they have fallen upon a Method of a modern Date, to extinguish Life by Poison; yet notwithstanding all their Cunning, God who is the Searcher into the innermost Recesses of the Heart, and from whom no fecret thing can be concealed, in his good and appointed Time exposes all the hidden Works of Darkness to open View, and blafts all their vain and empty Imaginations; for tho' the omnipotent wife Being fees it meet to permit Wickedness to go on with Impunity for a Time longer or shorter, yet they meet with their Deferts at last, but more especially for that Crime of Murder, which has in a wonderful Manner been discover'd by the very Brutes, when all human Wisdom were lost in the Search: These two Women, Sarab Pledge and Anne Whale, who were executed at Horsham in the County of Suffex, on Friday the seventh of August 1752, the first hang'd and afterwards diffected, and the latter burnt for the barbarous Murder of her Husband James Whale by Poison, are glaring Instances of God's just Judgment against Murderers in not suffering them to go unpunished in this Life; for a guilty Conscience is always its own Accuser and Tormentor, and the Finger of the Almighty is plainly discern'd in these Circumstances. These two Women aforemention'd are to be the Subject of this ensuing Treatise; their genuine Confessions fully and literally laid down, as taken before John Wicker, and Samuel Blunt Esquires, two of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace at Horsham aforesaid, their Conduct after Confession and Condemnation, and at the Place of Execution, containing a few Observations upon Anne Whale's Birth, and Conduct, while under the Guidance of her Parents, concluding with some Remarks upon Murder.

I shall begin first with Anne Whale's Confession.

This Examinant confesseth and saith, that some time in the Month of September 1749. she was married to the foresaid James Whale,

Whale, foon after which, they went and lived at a Place call'd Steepwood, in the Parish of Chiltington, where they continued till the Christmas following, and then remov'd into the Parish of Pulburough, and staid there till the second of August; at which Time they came to Broad-bridge-heath in the Parish of Horsham, and rented Part of a House of Mr. John Agate, in the other Part of which lived James Pledge, his Wife and Family. Soon after their coming there, some Disputes arose between Pledge's Wife, and the Husband of this Examinant, upon which her Husband forbid Pledge's Wife coming to their Part of the House, which occasion'd frequent Quarrels between James Whale, and Pledge's Wife; and one Morning as this Examinant was fitting at her Apartment, Pledge's Wife came in to her, and faid to her, Nan, I say, let us get rid of this Devil, meaning Anne Whale's Husband; upon which this Examinant faid, How? With some Poison, she faid; upon which this Examinant asked her, how she could come by it? to which she replied, I have some over at my new House, and you and I will go over and look for it, and if that is not gone, it will do for him; and accordingly some time afterward Pledge's Wife, this Examinant, and her Husband James Whale went over to the House to see if Whale would like it to rent it, and while they were there, Pledge's Wife look'd for the Poison, but as they were returning home cross the Common, she told this Examinant, it (meaning the Poison) was gone; but that she should go soon to Darking and would get some there; and accordingly she went to Darking, but there being a Person in the Shop who knew her, she was afraid to ask for it, as she told this Examinant, and that the would go to Rusper, and get some there; and soon after, she went to Rusper, but when she came there was afraid to ask for it, being known by the People, and upon her return, faid she would go to Town, meaning Horsham and get some of Mr. Harfoy, but this she neglected to do, and said, she would do it without buying of any Poison; upon which this Examinant asked her how, but the did not resolve her, but only said, she knew how; soon after

after which the went to her own part of the House, and went up Stairs, and this Examinant in a little time followed her, and when the came to her, being about to rest her Arm on a Chest of Drawers, the beat off a Paper from the top of a Cup in which Pledge's Wife had put three Spiders, and being much afraid of them, immediately started, and said to her, Good God! what do you get them for? to which Pledge replied, They are pretty little Birds to do for the Prince, (meaning Whale's Husband) and that the would get some more, for that when she had got enough they would do for him, and no-body know but that he died a natural Death, and then went into another Room, and into the Granary, and got some more Spiders, and put them into a Cup with some Beer and baked them, and after they were baked she squeez'd them, and put them into a Bottle of Beer and placed it upon a Table for James Whale to drink; but this Examinant, (after she was gone) took the Bottle and threw it into a Ditch, after which Pledge's Wife came and asked this Examinant, if the gave it her Husband; to which the replied the did; then she asked her again, if he was sick, to which she answered no; and then Pledge's Wife said, Damn him, he has a Constitution as strong as a Devil, the next Dose I get for him shall be strong enough; and in about a Week's time she went to Horsbam, and bought a pennyworth of Poison, which she called white Mercury, and on the Monday before her Husband's Death, as her Husband and she were walking together upon the Common, she (Pledge's Wife) came towards them, and call'd this Examinant aside, and told her, she had got that that would do for the Prince, (meaning her Husband) in her Pocket; to which she replied, she could not talk to her then, but would talk to her another time. The next Morning Pledge's Wife came in to her Apartment while she was at Breakfast, and pull'd out the Poison, and told her it was white Mercury; to which she answered that it was Salts, and not Poison; to that Pledge replied, by G- it is Poison, and it is that, that shall do for your Husband; upon which this Examinant

Examinant faid to her, Why you won't do it, will you? to which the made answer, Yes, by G-- I will, if you will not: to which this Examinant replied, If we do it we shall be all took up and hang'd; to which the faid no, 'twill never be found out, if you don't tell, but by G --- you shall have a Hand in it, or else you will tell; and then faid, I will roll it, and get it ready, and you shall put it in, meaning into a Hasty-Pudding, which this Examinant and Pledge's Wife had agreed should be got for James Whale's Dinner the next Day; and accordingly the next Day being Wednelday, the ninth Day of October last, the got a Hasty-Pudding for her Husband's Dinner at his own Request, he being very fond of it: while she was getting it, her Husband being in the Kitchin, Pledge's Wife came in and gave the Poison to this Examinant, in a piece of Paper roll'd up, faying, here is the Snuff Sally Churchman has fent you. Soon after which, the took part of the Pudding out of the Pot, and put the Poison into the rest, her Husband being looking intently at that time upon the Child; after which she eat what was first taken out, and her Husband cat part of the remainder, in which the Poison was put, and in about half an Hour's time her Husband was taken ill and vomited very much, but nevertheless went to his Landlord Mr. Agate's House to receive a Receipt for Rent which he had paid, and return'd in the Evening much out of Order, and was very full of Pain all Night, and frequently vomited 'till Midnight, and then grew worse and worse, till he died about seven or eight a-Clock the next Morning: And this Examinant further faith, that some time in the Harvest she had been talking with Pledge's Wife about destroying her Husband, when the asked Pledge's Wife, if her Husband knew any thing about it; upon which she said go and talk to him your self, and accordingly this Examinant went to James Pledge and faid to him, what shall I do to get rid of my cross Devil? (meaning her Husband) to which Pledge replied, I'll tell you how, get a pennyworth of Poison, which is called white Mercury, it is very much like Loaf-Sugar and put it into some Tea or some Beer, **fweeten**

sweeten it well and he won't taste it, for it has no ill taste at all: for I have tasted it, it is only a little brackish; to which this Examinant faid, If I do it, how thall I keep my Child, and pay fuch a large Rent? To which Pledge replied, you shall live with me Rent free fo long as you continue a Widow: upon that this Examinant faid, by G--- fo I will, meaning poison her Husband, and Pledge's Wife who was present said, by G--- so we will, and I'll go get the Poison; and further this Examinant faith, that James Pledge came three times to Town for Poison, but was afraid to buy it, for fear this Examinant wou'd impeach him, as Pledge has declared to this Examinant fince her Confinement.

Taken before Us the 6th Day of July, 1752, being two of bis Majesty's Anne Whale. Justices of the Peace for the said County. tion (mentily action that that your

John Wicker, ? Sam. Blunt.

The voluntary Information and Confession of Sarab Pledge, a Prisoner in the Goal at Horsham, in the County aforesaid, taken before me, one of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the faid County, this 3d of May, 1752.

This Informant says, that Anne Whale a Prisoner in the Goal aforesaid, came to this Informant's House at Broad-bridge-beath, in the Parish of Horsham in the County aforesaid, on Monday the 7th of October 1751. and told this Informant, if she would buy her a pennyworth of Poison, to poison her Husband James Whale with, she would give her half a Guinea to buy her a Gown, and if the Anne Whale was hang'd, for poisoning her Husband, she would give this Informant ten Pounds to look after her, Anne Whale's, Child; that accordingly this Informant on the the seventh of October, 1751, received one Penny of Anne Whale, and went to Mr. Harfoy Apothecary at Horsham aforefaid, and bought one pennyworth of White Mercury, and carried it to her own House; that on Wednesday following, the 9th of October about Noon, Anne Whale came to this Informant's House, and asked her if she had bought the Poison; this Informant said the had, and gave it to her, but defired her not to give it her Husband; to which she replied, By G--- I will; I'll make a Hasty Pudding, take some out for myself, and put the Poison into the Bottom of the Pot, and let my Husband scrape it up. That she Anne Whale then went into her own House, and in half an Hour afterwards return'd to this Informant's House again and said, she had given it (meaning the Poison) to her Husband, and that her Husband was very fick; that he came down and vomited very much. This Informant fays, in the Evening of the fame Day, the faw James Whale return Home, and just at his own Court laid himself over the Rails, and vomited very much, soon after went into his own House; about half an Hour afterwards Anne Whale came into this Informant's House, took her Warming-pan, and put her Husband to Bed; that about seven o'Clock next Morning, Anne Whale called to this Informant, and defired her to come and help her Husband into Bed; that this Informant went up Stairs into James Whale's Room, and found him very bad, she went and called John Eade, and George Elliot junior, to put him into Bed; about half an Hour afterwards this Informant went up into-James Whale's Room and found him lye dead.

The SP Sarah Mark of Pledge.

Thus an innocent Person was hurried from Time into Eternity by two persidious, traiterous, malicious devilish Women, one of whom should have prov'd his best (nay only Friend) one who was repreone half of himself, she who drank of his Cup, eat of his Bread, lay in his Bosom, and was the Mother of a Child by him, to deprive him of Life, and that in such an artful, premeditated, and treacherous Manner, without the least Prospect or Probability of reaping any Advantage from such a horrid and detestable Crime: O astonishing! what a shocking Spectacle must the Corpse of the Deceased have been to these two Wretches the Perpetrators, in case their Consciences had not been sear'd as it were with a Hot Iron! I shall, before I proceed further, give my Reader a brief Account of this wicked Woman Anne Whale's Extraction and juvenile Conduct, until the Time she was married to the deceased James Whale.

Anne Whale, who is my Theme, was born at Horsham in the County of Suffex, of honest and reputable Parents, her Father was a Butcher, and kept the Sign of the Cock within two Doors of the Goal in the fame Town, but he has been dead some Years, and it was a very great Happiness that he was not in being to be a broken hearted Spectator of the ignominious and untimely End of a favourite Child, upon whom he bestowed an Education suitable to his Station and her Genius; however the same good and wife Providence who took him out of Time, from beholding the Evil that was to befall his Daughter, preserv'd the much afflicted, disconsolate and tender hearted Mother to be an Ear-witness, if not an Eye-witness of the tragical Scene, the still continuing in the fame Place and Business that she occupied in her Husband's Lifetime; but the disagreeable Sound soon reaching her Ears, constrain'd her to quit her Habitation to the Charge of some Friends or Servants, and retire into another County until the Tragedy was finished; and a deep one it was, sufficient to mollify the most stony Heart, and dissolve it into Tenderness.

This Anne Whale was twenty one Years old last June, at which Time she became entitled to the Sum of eighty Pounds Sterling by Legacy or otherwise, but unhappy Woman! she did not enjoy it, on account of her unhappy Conduct; and I verily believe, that that vile Creature Sarah Pledge acted her Part with no other View than to have this Money come into her Hands, wherewith to support herself and Children, who are said to be seven in Number; but as Justice overtook both, it may go to support Anne Whale's Child, for whom she always appear'd much affected, and who, poor Infant! is lest in a melancholy and much to be pitied Situation.

After this Anne's Father's Dissolution, she turn'd out a very loose and disorderly Girl, having none to curb her, and oppose her wild and roving Inclinations, but a tender-hearted and indulgent Mother, who was loth to suppress her youthful Follies with too much Rigour; however this over Lenity in the Mother contributed much to the Ruin of the Daughter, seeing she sled from the Presence of her Mother, stroll'd about the Country, associated herfelf with loofe and diforderly Persons of both Sexes, which insenfibly led her into those evil Habits which cancel'd every Virtue, and enliven'd every Vice; and I shall (before I go farther) make one Remark, and it is this, that Parents should be very cautious, and act very delicately in the bringing up their Children, not to grant them too much Freedom, nor to shew them too much Indulgence, seeing such Conduct often produces fatal Consequences; the truest Way for a Parent to demonstrate his or her Love to Children, is not to let them know it, before they are capable to form a true Judgment of their Duty to their Maker, to the Instruments of their Being, and to their Fellow-creatures; for before they are foundly fixed in right Ideas of these Obligations, paternal-Indulgences are most hurtful, and whatever bad Effects arise from fuch unadvifed Proceedings, may with the greatest Justice and Impartiality

partiality be retorted upon themselves as the principal Conductors and Carriers on of such unjustifiable and dangerous Actions.

Notwithstanding all the evil Habits that took Possession of this unhappy young Woman, and hurried her into many Vices, the tender and affectionate Mother, whose Bowels melted with Compassion and Love to her undutiful Child, used all laudable Endeavours towards reclaiming her, and preventing the Ruin that the was daily and hourly bringing upon herfelf by her irregular Conduct. But without God's Grace operating upon the Mind, all external Means will prove abortive; however, her Mother's Endeavours prevailed fo far, as that she got her Home from the Company of her vicious Companions, which was a great Article towards a Reformation, and she likewise soon discover'd (to her great Satisfaction) some Signs of Contrition, and Amendment in her Daughter, who conducted herself much better than many of these unfortunate Creatures do after once being decoyed into bad Company. However the Mother fearing a Relapse, or being jealous of her Daughter's Sincerity in Regard to Amendment, confidered what was best to be done in order to prevent any further bad Consequences, therefore imagined that Matrimony might accomplish her good Intentions; the poor unfortunate James Whale was an industrious honest Man, and at that Time a Customer to the House, he being a labouring Man who had his Bread in that Neighbourhood. She pitched upon this Man as an agreeable Person for her Daughter; she was not long in contriving the Methods how to bring it about, for they were married in about ten Days after their first seeing each other; but it is often observ'd that these sudden and ill-digested Bargains are seldom productive of happy Events, as is plainly evinc'd in this Catastrophe, without instancing many more that are upon Record; but I really believe that what the Mother did in the Affair was with a good and honest Defign, the' the best Intentions don't always succeed according to our Wishes. As to that wicked old Woman Sarah Pledge, who was a Confederate in this unnatural and inhuman Murder, she was Cousin to the foresaid Anne Whale, and sometime after her Marriage to James Whale they all lived together under one Roof as aforementioned, tho' in different Apartments. Sarah knew that there was a Sum of Money to become due to Anne when she was twenty one Years of Age, and she had a great Inclination after some of this Money (if not the whole) but she also knew that James Whale the Husband was an unsurmountable Obstacle; that he was of a near and covetous Disposition, and that in case he once singer'd the Money, all her Hopes and Expectations would be entirely blasted; she therefore contrived this hellish Project to destroy him, and prevailed on his own Wise, his own Flesh to be Executioner.

They were both tried, cast and condemned at the Assizes held at Horsham in the County aforesaid, on the 20th of July 1752, for the barbarous and inhuman Murder of the said James Whale, before the Right Honourable Sir John Willes, Knt. Lord Chief Justice of his Majesty's Court of Common Pleas, and Sir Thomas Denison, Knt. one of his Majesty's Justices, when Anne Whale was sentenced to be burnt, in being guilty of petty Treason in the Murder of her Husband, and Sarah Pledge was sentenced to be hanged as being an Accessary, Aider and Abettor in the faid Murder. It was observed, and very much taken Notice of by all the Gentlemen in Court, the great Concern his Lordship shewed at the passing Judgment upon Anne Whale, and the Speech he made upon that awful Occasion was so tender and moving, that it sensibly affected all those present, which shews that his Lordship is a Gentleman of a most humane and sympathetick Disposition; but his Lordship at the same Time could not refrain declaring his Abhorrence of Sarah Pledge's Guilt, who was the chief Conductor of the whole villainous Scene, which brought Destruction upon herself, and upon the unfortunate Woman and her Husband.

Anne Whale was a very genteel young Woman, and behav'd with great Decency and Refignation during her Confinement; they both received the Sacrament in one Room the Day before their Execution, and freely forgave each other. Sarab Pledge acknowledged that she had once a Bastard Child, which she threw into a Pond to conceal her Shame, but that it was Still-born; this she mention'd to Anne Whale to diffipate her Fears, and encourage her to poison her Husband, when she heard Anne's Objection. that Murder never went undiscover'd. She had a female Friend who came often to see her while under Confinement, and who commonly read some good Book to her, but Sarab interrupted her one time, in requesting her to persuade her Husband Pledge not to marry again; which ill-timed and unreasonable Request provok'd the Woman so, that she never went near her any more. Morning of her Execution she sent for her Husband to come to her, which he accordingly did, and took a last adieu; one of her Children attended her to Execution; she once (as is reported) expressed herself in Goal, that she hoped to see the young Bitch burnt before the was hang'd; but the was disappointed, being hang'd upwards of two Hours before the other was burnt. She declar'd a great aversion to Jack Catch, and I must needs say fo far in her behalf, that the had no great reason to wish him well, all things being fairly stated, seeing she declared in Goal that she would sooner chuse to go naked to the place of Execution, than he should have her Cloaths; but notwithstanding all this Animosity, Jack Catch soon depriv'd her of Life and Cloaths too.

On Friday, August the 7th, They were both convey'd to the Place of Execution, Sarah Pledge in a Cart, and Anne Whale on a Sledge; Pledge was turned off about half an Hour after Three, and as the Cart was drawing from under her, she cried out with a very loud Voice, Stop, Stop, saying the Rope was not fixed right,

sight, and offered to put up her Hand to alter it. And at about half an Hour after Five, Anne Whale was led up to the Stake, (the Parson having pray'd for and with her for upwards of half an Hour) and her Back chain'd thereto, after being first strangled, which was about five Minntes before the Fire was kindled, which was one of the greatest ever known upon such a melancholy Occasion; there were upwards of three hundred and one half of Faggots and three Load of Cordwood, so that it must have continued burning till Saturday Night or Sunday Morning. The Faggots eclipsed the Sight of her for some time, but in about five Minutes the Violence of the Flame confumed a part thereof, which falling, gave the Spectators an Opportunity of seeing her; but as I observ'd before, it was a very affecting and disagreeable Object, for the was all confumed to a Skeleton, and her Body fent forth an odious She said little or nothing at the place of Execution, having before declared all the Truth; the Signal she made for her Exit was the droping her Hands, which the instantly did. As to Sarab Pledge, her Body was put into a Tallow-chandler's Hamper, and carried to Doctor Dennett Junior, of Storington, to be diffected, agreeable to the late Act of Parliament. The whole Ceremony was carried on with the strictest Decorum, and Decency; and there was the greatest Concourse of People ever known on the like Occasion. Thus died these two unhappy Women for the exerable Sin of Murder, a Crime that has got too great a footing in this our Country, especially within these few Years last past; so that it is become quite fashionable to take the Almighty's Authority out of his Hand, and act in Opposition to all Laws both Divine and Human. This Conduct requires to be unravel'd and laid open, that so its Nakedness may be seen, and its Shame exposed: I shall therefore (for the Benefit of all those into whose Hands this small Treatise may happen) lay down a few Remarks concerning the heinous Sin of Murder, and then conclude. I shall here argue a little with the Murderer in a few moral Interrogatories and Reflec-

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tions on his or her own Guilt, and the unhappy Fate of the mura der'd Person of the was led up to form the wind her to upwards of that the contract of the con

Oh! what Horror the monstrous Appearance must give the Murderer! when once he unmasks himself, his Misery can bear no Proportion to his Guilt, but Cain like, must acknowledge (tho just) to be greater than he can bear; then the dreadful Scene presents it self to his Imagination in the most tragical Form that ever appear'd on the Stage; Murder! the most bloody Effect of Fury that has been ever perpetrated in human Life! Why should the Murderer express himself in the Language of Men, and not invoke the infernal Furies to teach him their Dialect, that he may give his Guilt its proper Aggravation, for his was a Deed of Darkness sit for the Records of Hell?

shid finde or nothing at the place of Execution,

Murder! execrable Murder! that curfed Hand of yours that must tremble every Nerve to relate it, gave the deadly Blow! Horror! Confusion! On! what Punishment can attone for the Guilt of such a Miscreant as you are? Your Guilt must appear to your View in all its horrid Deformity and Aggravation, and unless your Conficience is sear'd against all Impressions, the secret Sense of your Guilt must be worse than a thousand Deaths; but where can you secure your self from Divine Judgment, even the powerful Intercession may protect you from temporal Punishment? Death can be no Refuge, nor can the Grave prove a Sanctuary for you, to screen you from the just Indignation of an offended God; and if you was to banish your self from your native Country, and the Sight of your Friends, where can you find Refuge?

No Barbarous Nation will receive a Guilt
So much transcending theirs; but drive you out.
The wildest Beasts will hunt you from their Dens,
And Birds of Prey molest you in the Grave.

You are evidently condemn'd by your own Conscience, that restless Monitor within, and the Divine Laws; you must call to the Rocks to hide you, and the Mountains to cover you from the Pursuit of eternal Vengeance.

Oh! what would not the Murderer give the very next Moment after he has perpetrated the Crime (when his Rage is once spent, and Guilt and Friendship with all their Force return triumphant on the Soul) to have the murder'd Person restor'd to Life again? but then it is too late to wish for that, which all created Powers cannot effect.

On you no Ray of Mercy e'er will shine, No smiling Beam of Hope will ever rise, Justice Divine, and Self-condemning Guilt, Consign you over to eternal Woe.

For what Repentance is there for a Wretch who can make no Restitution? The Injury you have done can never be cancell'd, 'twas desperate, it was irreparable Mischief that you brought on' the wretched Victim: You cut off his Space of Trial, his Probation for immortal Joys, and tore him from all his Hopes of future Salvation. You perhaps surprized him with all his Sins and unrepented Follies on his Head; his Guilt might that instant be in its fullest Magnitude, while you with more than an infernal Rage seized the cursed Moment, and sent an immortal Spirit to Hell. He may now be loading you with Execrations, and founding Revenge through the Caverns of Darkness, ragainst a Miscreant, that bar'd the Gates of Bliss, and open'd his Passage to the Dungeons of Misery, and endless Despair; these are the horrible Images that must haunt and sometimes drive the Murderer to the Precipice of Ruin: I could fay much more upon this Subject, but I must not swell this Treatife,

Treatife, therefore shall finish it with my hearty Advice to all those who are tempted by their violent Passions, or from any sinister Views to commit this most abominable Sin of Murder, that they would peruse these sew Observations I have inserted, and that calmly and without Prejudice, and then I doubt not, but (by the Blessing of God upon the Means) it will prove of great Use, in preventing such satal Consequences, as Murder naturally produces.

FINIS.



